

Post

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1987



MARGARET THATCHER
... Western Europe's senior leader

Thatcher Sees Enhanced Role In Moscow Visit

By Karen DeYoung
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, March 22—When she goes to Moscow to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev this week, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a Conservative Party gathering yesterday, her "goal will be a peace based not on illusion or surrender, but on realism and strength."

Thatcher has publicly rejected speculation that she will undertake negotiations for the West on crucial arms control issues during her five-day Soviet visit that begins Saturday. That role, she has emphasized, belongs exclusively to the United States.

But the British news media, with encouragement from Thatcher's Downing Street press office, is portraying the trip as evidence of her "big league" status in the western alliance. Her aides predict it will enhance Thatcher's already favorable prospects in general elections likely to be held here this year.

Thatcher and her aides also view the visit in a larger context, however. With Moscow and Washington struggling with domestic issues as they move closer to an agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe, and Western Europe fearing that the United States may back away from its commitment to the alliance, the trip may provide her with an oppor-

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New Md. Stadium Wouldn't Guarantee Economic Gains

By Gwen Ifill
Washington Post Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS—The Colts deserted Baltimore and its 37-year-old Memorial Stadium in 1984, abandoning the legendary playing field of Johnny Unitas for the glistening new \$80 million Indianapolis Hoosierdome.

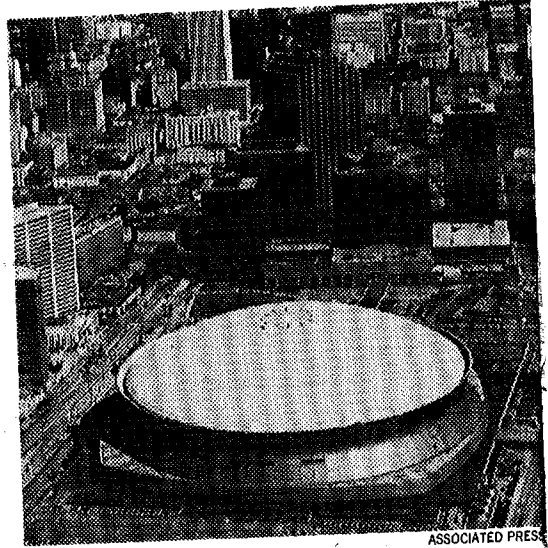
Indianapolis Mayor Richard Hudnut was delighted; William Donald Schaefer, the mayor of Baltimore, was not.

Schaefer, now governor, is still bitter about the Colts' departure. And, like the chief executives of at least 16 other states and cities, Schaefer is convinced that an expensive new sports facility is necessary as a boon to economic development, to boost prestige and to attract a new National Football League team.

"You look at the prestige, you look at the jobs, you look at the things it generates in a city," Schaefer said last month. "You won't be able to replace them, and once they are gone, they are gone."

"This is one of the most important economic benefits to the state," Schaefer said more recently. "There isn't any question about it."

But there is still debate in cities around the country as well as among economists about how strong a link there is between sports-related development and economic prosperity. Cost overruns for stadium projects are not uncommon, and taxpayers have frequently railed against efforts to use public funds to build the sports complexes



The Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans is one example of a stadium that spun off economic benefits despite cost overruns during construction.

that team owners are more frequently demanding.

It is the intangible—community spirit and team identity, for instance—that is most frequently cited as the best reason the public should subsidize professional sports.

"The name of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Colts are going out across the country every day during the football season," Lee Fehrenkamp, the Hoosierdome's director of operations, said recently, summing up the city's transformation since the Colts arrived there. "These are things you can't buy, right?"

Schaefer, fearful of losing the Orioles baseball team, is bent on convincing the General Assembly that the state is responsible for rescuing Maryland's sports reputation and enhancing its economic development profile. He has submitted

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